

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-24, 26-32, 34-48, and 50-56 under 35 USC §102. The Examiner objected to claims 1, 24 and 51-56 due to formalities that have been corrected by amendment. The Examiner has further indicated that claims 6, 25, 33 and 49 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


In order to expedite allowance of the objected claims, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 4, 24, 27, 31, and 48. Claims 6, 25, 33, and 49 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. All remaining claims have been amended to depend from one of the allowable claims. In addition, apparatus and computer-readable medium claims 51-53 have been amended to correspond to claim 6, while apparatus and computer-readable medium claims 54-56 have been amended to correspond to claim 49. New claims 57-58 have been added to correspond to claims 25 and 33, respectively.

Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce claims of the same or similar scope as those cancelled or amended in a subsequent continuation or divisional application. Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 2-3, 5-23, 25-26, 28-30, 32-47, and 49-58 are now allowable.

A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited. If there are any issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Applicants hereby petition for an extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee for such extension or any further fee required in connection with the filing of this Amendment is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. CISC226).

Respectfully submitted,
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